

Connect



It's the 20th Anniversary of Click It or Ticket. Did you know that the Click It or Ticket campaign began in North Carolina and is now in all 50 states? In 1992, North Carolina law

enforcement officers responded to 38,289 crashes involving unbelted passengers. The Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) launched the Click It or Ticket seat belt safety program in 1993. By 2012, law enforcement officers only responded to 8,187 crashes involving unbelted passengers!

SADD chapters should feel proud of the contributions that we have made over the years to promote seat belt use. Chapters conducted seat belt checks of students and staff arriving at and leaving the campus. Some chapters gave out "Dum Dum" candies as a reminder to those not buckled and "Smarties" to those wearing their seatbelts. Several chapters also had campaigns focused on getting boys to buckle up, as research shows that boys lag behind girls in seatbelt use. All schools reported increased seat belt usage after their buckle up projects.

GHSP is asking us to help celebrate the anniversary and keep the momentum going. Here's what you do: take a picture of yourself sitting in your car showing your seatbelt safely buckled up (with the car in park, of course!) and share it on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media with **#SafetySelfie**. Encourage your family members and friends to follow your example and always buckle up before putting the vehicle in drive. You never know; you just might save someone's life.



June 2013

Issue 4

In This Issue

- Click It or Ticket
- Marijuana Prevention
- Person High School
- Avery High School

SADD Calendar for June and July

- Safe Prom and Graduation
- Marijuana Abuse Awareness

Ideas? Questions? Concerns?

Contact

Harriett Southerland

919 807-4400

919-807-4415 fax

hsoutherland@ncsadd.org

www.ncsadd.org

www.sadd.org (National SADD)

Facebook: Ncsadd

Join the YAIO Mail List at

www.ncyaio.com

**Did you know
Teens who use marijuana
are at greater risk for using
other drugs, such as
cocaine and heroin, than
those who never tried marijuana?**—Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration.



A few years ago, the penalty for driving unbuckled was \$25.00. With fines and court costs, being caught without your seatbelt fastened will now cost you \$161.00! Not buckling up is now hazardous to your health *and* your wallet.

Don't take the chance. Just Click It!

Teen Marijuana Use UP

Since 2007, marijuana use has increased among young people to the extent that more teenagers now smoke marijuana than cigarettes. Marijuana is usually smoked in hand-rolled cigarettes (joints). It is also smoked in pipes or water pipes (bongs) and in cigars that have been emptied of tobacco and refilled with a mix of marijuana and tobacco. It can be mixed in food or brewed as a tea.

Many young people who use marijuana often exhibit mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and personality disturbances. They also lack motivation to get involved in activities that would typically be rewarding.

Because marijuana impairs judgment and motor coordination and slows reaction time, an intoxicated person has an increased chance of being involved in and being responsible for an accident.

For more information to help with your marijuana prevention projects, go to <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>.

Safe Prom and Graduation Campaigns

Person High School SADD in Roxboro is an excellent example of the school and community working together to help save young lives and help youth make better decisions. Leading up to the prom, Person's



SADD chapter, under the leadership of advisor Shelby Williams, held a *Drive To Live* highway safety event. To carry out the event, the chapter partnered with the NC State Highway Patrol, the Roxboro Police Department, the Person County Sheriff's Office and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

After the prom and leading up to graduation, Person SADD joined with MADD to stage an anti-texting and

anti-drinking and driving event for the school. Students donned "drunk" goggles and drove golf carts to learn how seriously alcohol or drugs can impair their ability to safely operate a vehicle. They learned how dangerous it is to attempt to read or send text messages while behind the wheel.



Advisor Williams said the 2012-2013 school term had been a busy but rewarding one for Person SADD. She believes that the chapter worked hard to get the prevention message across. "But," she said, "we could not have done it without the support of the administration and the participation of the students. They really got into it. It's been a good year. I think we've done helpful prevention. I feel we have reached a lot of students by emphasizing the dangers of drinking and driving or texting while driving."

Earlier in the year, the Person High SADD chapter did



a bullying prevention program in two parts. First, they had an anti-bullying themed classroom door decorating contest. The winning class received tickets for free skating or bowling. The second part of the program was a "bullying solution" campaign in which students wrote essays on how the school as a whole could prevent bullying.

Ms. Williams said, "The campaign was a success and school participation was great!"

Avery High School SADD in Newland did several drinking and driving prevention activities leading up to the prom. In Grim Reaper, SADD students were assigned the responsibility of researching teens who had died in alcohol related vehicle crashes, reading their story and portraying them. Dressed in black, they were each taken from their class, then a law enforcement

officer came in to tell what happened to the student and to read the victim's story to the class.

In an assembly, 28 SADD members lay on the floor to represent the number of people killed by a drunk driver every 15 minutes. Audience members were given numbers and, when called, had to come down and "die." By the end of the program, 96 people were "dead" as a result of a drunk driver. The program also included a casket with a mirror inside and a sign that read, "Don't be caught dead from drinking and driving."

Advisor Cheri Frye reports that the students took the activities very seriously. She said, "It made them think. They said they had never really thought of it 'that way.' The program was awesome, and the students were enthusiastic in their support and participation."

Frye is already planning for the 2013-14 school year: "Next year, we plan to host an after prom party and do Celebrate My Drive. I really enjoy working with the students!"

If you haven't registered with the State Farm *Celebrate My Drive* program, go to www.celebratemydrive.com and sign up. There's money in it for you!

Keep It a Safe Summer

School is already over for some and will soon be over for others. Unfortunately, June, July and August have high rates of teen traffic crashes. While you're out for the summer, continue to be a SADD role model, and look for every opportunity to spread the SADD "No Use" message. A great place to find ideas and inspiration for fun summer activities is www.sadd.org; click on *Campaigns and Activities*; under *Activities*, click on *Safe Summer*.

Save the Date

November 22-24, 2013 is the date of the State SADD Conference. Start planning now so you will be able to attend. The state conference is the only time during the year that we offer prevention training. Don't be left out. All students who have been to the state conference say they'll never forget it. Registration forms will be sent out in August.



North Carolina Department of Administration
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office